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### Montana Science Fair participants take home awards

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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April 25, 2000

**Contact:** Linda DeMinck, Montana State Science Fair assistant director, (406) 243-2866, lad@cs.umt.edu.

### **MONTANA SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPANTS TAKE HOME AWARDS**

#### **MISSOULA —**

More than 700 students from across the state displayed 617 exhibits during the 45th Montana Science Fair April 9-11 at The University of Montana. The event, which included projects from students in grades six through 12, culminated with a ceremony where 180 awards were presented.

The two top individual Grand Award winners and the top team winners in the high school division received expense paid trips to the INTEL International Science and Engineering Fair in Detroit May 7-13. High school students competed in 14 categories.

The two individual winners are Jayce Getz of Big Sky High School in **Missoula** and Jessica Kaae of C.M. Russell High School in **Great Falls**. Julie Garon and Heather Menning from **Hamilton** High School won the Grand Award for best team project.

Additional top-tier individual students who earned trips to ISEF are Egan Jankowski-Bradley of **Missoula's** Sentinel High School and Garl Germann from **Ennis**.

High school Grand Award winners who earned trips to ISEF at Montana regional fairs include Joy Womac of **Billings**; Krista Mougey of **Colstrip**; Michael Brady of **Malta**; Allison Jochim of **Joplin-Inverness**; Melissa Lossing and Stephanie West of **Outlook**; Jerri Ahrens, Jeremy Brimhall and Marshall Overcast from **Sunburst**; Brittany Kirkland of **Missoula**; and Cassie Koerner and Lynessa Kellogg from **Stevensville**.

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Will Milburn from **Cascade** High School won the high school division Best Exhibit by a Freshman Award.

For the grades six through eight division, first-place Grand Awards in the biological science category were Roselyn Hallett, an eighth-grader from Westview Junior High School in **Hamilton**, and Sean Dudley, a seventh-grader from **Butte** Central Catholic Junior High School. In the physical science category, first-place Grand Award winners were Taryn Yates, an eighth-grader from **Lolo** School, and Patrick Menge, a seventh-grader from **Saco** Public Schools. Kari Gillespie from **Sunburst** Elementary won an award for best exhibit in the sixth-grade biological science category, while Beth Stroehler from **Ramsay** School won an award for best exhibit in the sixth-grade physical science category. Bryn Bennett and Andrea Weber from **Lolo** School won the Grand Award for the best team project in grades six through eight.

Missoula's Big Sky High School was named the overall outstanding high school for year 2000, and **Lolo** Junior High was named the outstanding junior high school. In addition to the special awards, hundreds of exhibitors received gold, silver and bronze ribbons to acknowledge exceptional work.

The Montana Science Fair is sponsored by the UM Foundation and Missoula Exchange Club.

Montana Science Fair winners have won 72 grand awards at the ISEF in 38 of the 44 years the state has participated. The state science fair was founded in 1955 by Reuben Diettert, a UM professor of botany who directed the fair for 18 years.

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**Note:** Pictures may be available upon request.

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